

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SEOUL 5797 ACTION SECSTATE PRIORITY INFO
TOKYO USUN NEW YORK AUGUST 29:

QUOTE

SEOUL 5797

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, UN
SUBJEC: KOREAN QUESTION AT UN: POPPER-BENNETT MEETING WITH FONMIN KIM

SUMMARY: IN 90-MINUTE MEETING WITH FONMIN KIM
ASSISTANT SECRETARY POPPER AND AMB BENNETT HAD USEFUL,
WIDE-RANGING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KOREAN QUESTION AT
UNGA. MEETING CONFIRMED USG-ROK AGREEMENT ON OBJECT-
TIVES AND APPROACH REGARDING THE KOREAN QUESTION AT
THIS YEAR'S UNGA. KIM ALSO URGED USG UNDERTAKE DIRECT
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRC ON UNC QUESTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. POPPER AND BENNETT MET WITH FONMIN KIM AUGUST 28
FOR 90- MINUTE RUNDOWN OF KOREAN ISSUES IN UNGA.
KIM OPENED WITH SUMMARY HIS RECENT TRIP TO LATIN
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AMERICA, EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA. REFERRING TO
PREVIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ROK AND FRANCE OVER ROK
PARTICIPATION IN UN, KIM SAID FONMIN JOBERT HAD GOOD
UNDERSTANDING OF KOREAN JUNE 13 POLICY INITIATIVE, AND

INDICATED FRENCH SUPPORT. AT A MINIMUM, KIM SAID, "ATMOSPHERE" WITH FRENCH HAS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY NOW THAT KOREAN COMBAT FORCES WERE NO LONGER IN VIETNAM.

2. KIM VISITED NETHERLANDS, WHICH PROMISED FULL SUPPORT. IN TUNISIA, BOURGUIBA AND FONMIN MASMOUDI BOTH SUPPORTED ROKS. FORMER EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE WITH NORTH KOREAN LETTER DELIVERED TO GOT EARLIER WHICH HE SAID SLANDERED ROK AND U.S., AND WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF PLACE IN DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE. IN MEXICO KIM SAID FONMIN RABASA AGREED WITH ROKS ON UNCURK AND MEMBERSHIP ISSUES, BUT DEMURRED FROM SUPPORTING CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN KOREA. HOWEVER, KIM SAID PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD RABASA TO SUPPORT ROK ACROSS THE BOARD. BRAZIL, AS EXPECTED, WAS NO PROBLEM, AND KIM HOPES BRAZILIANS WILL FAVORABLY INFLUENCE URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY. IN SUM, KIM SAID RESULTS OF TRIP WERE VERY ENCOURAGING.

A. NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE:

3. ACCORDING KIM, TUNISIAN FONMIN MASMOUDI WILL OPPOSE OBSERVER STATUS FOR NORTH KOREA AT ALGIERS CONFERENCE, BUT ASKED WHETHER ROK WOULD CONSIDER SEEKING OBSERVER STATUS. KIM SAID AFTER THOROUGH CONSIDERATION, ROKG HAD DECIDED NOT TO SEEK OBSERVER STATUS SINCE IT MIGHT ONLY TRIGGER A SIMILAR NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION. NONETHELESS, ROKG IS SENDING DISCREETLY SEVERAL OFFICIALS TO ALGIERS TO SCOUT SITUATION. KIM POINTED OUT GEORGETOWN CONFERENCE HAD ADOPTED RESOLUTION DEMANDING WITHDRAWAL ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM KOREA. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LEFTIST ORIENTATION OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WOULD REPEAT SUCH ACTION, WHICH WOULD HAVE BAD EFFECT JUST BEFORE UNGA. WHILE ROKG WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO HEAD OFF SUCH AN ACTION, KIM SAID HE WAS NOT OVERLY CONFIDENTIAL

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OPTIMISTIC, THUS FIRMLY POWERS, HE SAID, MUST BE PREPARED TO START VIGOROUS DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN SOON AFTER ALGERIAN CONFERENCE TO COUNTER ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN IN THAT FORUM.

B. WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK:

4. KIM WARMLY CONGRATULATED WORKING GROUP ON PROGRESS MADE IN CURRENT DISCUSSIONS. ON CONCURRENT ADMISSION, KIM HAD ORIGINALLY THOUGHT NOBODY COULD OPPOSE IN LIGHT CONCEPT UNIVERSALITY. HOWEVER, DISCUSSIONS ON THIS POINT IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN VALUABLE TO KIM AND HE CONSIDERED PRESENT DRAFT

LANGUAGE ON CONCURRENT ADMISSION IS EXCELLENT FOR ROK PURPOSES. POPPER AGREED WORKING GROUP HAD MADE UNUSUALLY GOOD PROGRESS AND HAD REACHED HELPFUL FORMULATIONS ON CONCURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND DISSOLUTION OF UNCURK. KIM DID CAUTION ABOUT THE JAPANESE TENDENCY TO BE "PESSIMISTIC" IN ITS ASSESSMENTS. HE HOPED THAT POPPER AND BENNETT WOULD BEAR THIS IN MIND IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ LATER IN TOKYO.

C. UN COMMAND:

5. TURNING TO UNC, POPPER NOTED ISSUE MORE COMPLICATED, SINCE AS KIM HAS SAID EARLIER, MAJORITY OF PRESENT GA MEMBERS WERE NOT PRESENT AT TIME OF KOREAN WAR AND DO NOT APPRECIATE HISTORY OF KOREAN QUESTION. POPPER NOTED U.S. PREFERENCE IS FOR NO MENTION OF UNC IN GA RESOLUTION (TO WHICH KIM NOTED AGREEMENT), HOWEVER, MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION. WE NEED MORE INFO ON VIEWS OTHER GOVERNMENT BEFORE DECIDING WHAT, IF ANYTHING, TO DO.

6. IN RESPONSE TO FONMIN'S QUERY ON ACTIVITIES OTHER SIDE, AMBASSADOR BENNETT NOTED DPRK OBSERVERS HAVE NOT ARRIVED IN NEW YORK BUT ARE EXPECTED SHORTLY. HE DESCRIBED PRC PERMREP'S HARD LINE RECAUTION ON UNC AND MEMBERSHIP IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR SCALI AND HIMSELF LAST WEEK (USUN 2975).

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7. POPPER STRESSED WE SHOULD TAKE OUR TIME ON UNC ISSUE. WE CANNOT TAMPER WITH ARMISTICE AGREEMENTS AND MUST HAVE EQUIVALENT ARRANGEMENTS TO GUARANTEE ROK SECURITY AND PEACE AND STABILITY. THIS IS REASONABLE AND WE SHOULD STRESS THIS. AMBASSADOR BENNETT SAID WE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY ALGERIAN AND CHINESE EMPHASIS ON "UN FLAG" AS DISTINGUISHED FROM UNC AND WONDERED IF THIS SIGNIFICANT. POPPER OBSERVED 1950 SC RES AUTHORIZED USE OF FLAG AND THUS IT DIFFICULT DISTINGUISH UNC AND UN FLAG ISSUES. IN ANY CASE, POLITICAL EFFECT OF ADVERSE RES WOULD BE HARMFUL, WHATEVER THE LEGALITIES.

8. FONMIN KIM REITERATED THAT USG BIALTERAL TALKS WITH PRC ON UNC AND ARMISTICE AGREEMENT RELATED ISSUES ARE ESSENTIAL. FOR PAST TWO YEARS ROK HAS ASSUMED PRC INTERESTED IN STABILITY OF KOREAN PENINSULA. HOWEVER, IF PRC ONLY WANTS ARMISTICE AGREEMENT ANNULLED, WITHOUT HELPING ESTABLISH ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS, THIS WILL CREATE ADDITIONAL TENSIONS AND WILL FORCE ROKG TO RECONSIDER ITS PRESENT POLICIES. U.S. IS ONLY POWER THAT CAN EFFECTIVELY APPROACH PRC ON THIS SUBJECT

AND KIM MADE IT CLEAR HE THINKING IN TERMS OF CHOU EN LAI. FOR ITS PART KIM SAID ROKG IS FLEXIBLE AND REALISTIC. IT IS WILLING TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE ARRANGMENTS BUT ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF ASSURING CONTINUED PEACE AND STABILITY. HOWEVER, PRC MUST BE WILLING TO RESPOND IN LIKE MANNER. POPPER SAID USG HAD FULL APPRECIATION OF SITUATION AND WAS GIVING MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM.

9. FONMIN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT SC MIGHT TAKE UP KOREA/UNC PROBLEM AS TACTIC TO PRECLUDE GA CONSIDERATION (SINCE UNDER CHARTER GA PRECLUDED FROM DISCUSSING SUBJECT UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN SC). POPPER SAID THIS TECHNICALLY CORRECT, BUT AS INITIAL REACTION HE MUST QUESTION VALUE OF USING SC AS A FORUM FOR THIS PROBLEM. IT WOULD ONLY CREATE OPEN CONFLICT AMONG PERMANENT SC MEMBERS. KIM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT POINT AND ADDED HE AWARE THAT VOTE IN SC COULD ALSO BE ADVERSE AND IF VETO WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXERCISED, THIS WOULD HURT ROK CHANCES IN GA. NOTED THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH HE WOULD HAVE TO STUDY FURTHER.

10. REFERRING TO LANGUAGE TABLED BY U.S. ON UNC IN WORKING GROUP MEETING AUGUST 27 (USUN 3000), KIM ASKED WHO WERE "PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED". POPPER SAID OUR INTENTION WAS TO REFER TO SOUTH-NORTH RECONCILIATION EFFORT AND TO ENSURE THAT PARTIES CONCERNED DEALT WITH ISSUE RATHER THAN SECURITY COUNCIL OR OTHER BROADER GROUP.

11. KIM SAID U.S. LANGUAGE IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM BUT NOTED POSSIBLE DESIRABILITY OF SPECIFIC "UN FLAG" LANGUAGE IF THIS BECOMES NECESSARY TO COUNTER ANY ALGERIAN CLAIM THAT CURRENT REFERENCE TO UNC IN OUR RES DID NOT PRECLUDE SEPARATE VOTE ON OTHER UN FLAG PROPOSALS.

12. FONMIN STRESSED THAT MORE WORK NEEDED IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES. ROKG SOUNDINGS INDICATE DETERIORATION IN THEIR AFRICAN POSITION, WITH ONLY SEVEN AFS FOR AND 15 OPPOSED ROKG POSITION. THIS BAD SITUATION CAUSED BY PRC STATUS IN AREA AS RESULT AID PROGRAMS AND POLITICAL CULTIVATION, NOT NORTH KOREAN LOBBYING. IN EFFORT TO COUNTER THIS AND EXPECTED RADICAL PUSH AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, KIM HAS ASKED TUNISIANS TO INVITE ALGERIAL FONMIN TO VISIT SEOUL. KIM ALSO SPECIFICALLY SOUTH U.S. HELP IN CANVASSING AFRICANS.

13. POPPER REFERRED TO PRELIMINARY CANVASS RE CONCURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND CONVEYED RESULTS OF SOUNDINGS PER STATE 169927. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTOR HAN GAVE ROK ESTIMATE. ACCORDING HAN, ROKG FIGURES 57 YES, 15 QUALIFIED YES, AND 27 OPPOSED TO CONCURRENT ADMISSION, WITH THE OTHERS UNCERTAIN OUT OF 122 TOTAL COUNTRIES EITHER CANVASSED OR WHOSE VOTING IS PREDICTABLE (E.G. COMMUNIST COUNTRIES).

14. KIM ALSO RENEWED THE ROKG REQUEST FOR U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROACH TO PAKISTAN, DURING BHUTTO'S VISIT TO U.S.

15. ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES, NEITHER KIM NOR POPPER SAW PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN GENERAL COMMITTEE AND AGREED IT BEST LEAVE TO NEW YORK WHETHER TO SEEK GROUPING OF UNCURK AND ALGERIAN ITEMS. PROCEDURE FOR INVITATIONS THROUGH CONSENSUS APPROACH AS WORKED OUT IN NEW YORK ALSO AGREEABLE.

16. KIM EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE OF ROKG FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF KOREAN ITEM LATE IN SESSION, SPECIFICALLY AFTER MID-NOVEMBER. EXPLAINED ADDITIONAL TIME NECESSARY FOR FIRENDLY LOBBYING EFFORT AND PARTICULARLY FOR ANY DIRECT U.S. BILATERAL TALKS WITH PRC. POPPER AND BENNETT OBSERVED LATE DISCUSSIONS COULD WORK TWO WAYS. ATMOSHPERE IN GA OFTEN DETERIORATES TOWARD END OF SESSION, FACT WHICH MIGHT WORK AGAINST OUR INTERESTS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO STRONG FEELINGS, BUT SUGGEST WE KEEP THIS QUESTION OPEN FOR TIME BEING.

17. KIM CONCLUDED IT IS ROKG HOPE THAT 1973 WOULD BE LAST YEAR OF UN DISCUSSION ON KOREA. CURRENT ROKG INITIATIVES WERE DESIGNED IN PART TO TAKE DISCUSSION KOREA OUT OF UN, AND ROKG IS TIRED OF WASTEFUL ANNUAL EFFORTS TO SECURE SUPPORT ALL OVER THE WORLD.

18. IN CONCLUSION, FONMIN KIM AND POPPER AGREED THAT USG AND ROKG ARE IN CLOSEST AGREEMENT ON STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN HANDLING OF KOREAN QUESTION AT THIS YEAR'S UNGA.

19. COMMENT: VISIT BY POPPER AND BENNETT WARMLY WELCOMED BY ROKG, AND FONMIN KIM PERSONALLY. AS REPORTED ABOVE, POPPER'S SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE WITH FONMIN KIM CONFIRMED EXISTING CLOSE AGREEMENT ON HANDLING KOREAN ITEM AND PROVIDED A HIGHLY USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON EMERGEING TRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS AS UNGA DN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE NEARS.

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